



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/502,416

07/23/2004

Daniel Greub

0115-044591

3939

28289 7590 11/01/2007

THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.
700 KOPPERS BUILDING
436 SEVENTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

EXAMINER

CHIEM, DINH D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2883

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/502,416

Applicant(s)

GREUB, DANIEL

Examiner

Erin D. Chiem

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-26, 28-36 and 38-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-26 and 33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 28-32, 34-36 and 38-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

In the interview of August 6, 2007, the applicant and the examiner discussed the prior art of Wu rejection over claim 17. Examiner also informed the applicant the novelty of the application is regarding the simplicity of the adapter having minimal number of parts and suggested applicant to claim such limitations for the purpose of expediting prosecution. In view of the Remarks and the amendment submitted on August 20, 2007 has overcome the 102(b) rejection in view of Wu, but the application is not in condition for allowance. Examiner hereby provides new grounds of rejection below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17, 28-32, 34-36, and 38-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. (US 6,666,586) in view of Zimmer (US 2002/0150350 A1).

Regarding claims 17 and 36, Wu discloses in Fig. 5, A sleeve mount assembly (100) comprising a sleeve mount having an interior for accommodating and securing a cylindrical sleeve (40) having a longitudinal slit (42), the sleeve mount assembly further comprising optical plug-in connections (12, 50) for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions, the sleeve mount having means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis (70, 71, 72, 151) wherein the means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount, the sleeve mount is made up of two separate mount parts

(111 and 60), and the means for securing are arranged and retained between the mount parts (the assembly parts are between element 111 and 60).

However, Wu does not disclose the means for securing the split sleeve against rotation, since sleeve (40) does not have a longitudinal slit extending along an entire length of the cylindrical sleeve.

Zimmel disclose a fiber optic adapter wherein the means (173) for preventing the split sleeve (152) from rotation protrudes into the slit and is between the mount parts (Fig. 12). It would have been obvious to recognize the motivation of Wu and Zimmel implementation is to prevent rotation in the members. Therefore in view of the disclosure by Zimmel, one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the adapter in view of the teaching by Zimmel. The teaching of Zimmel is an improvement over Wu since Zimmel utilizes less mountable parts and maintain minimal play in the adapter by engaging the split sleeve rather than a partially split sleeve element of the adapter.

Regarding claims 28 and 38, examiner considers the depressed circular area of element 111 as a flange, and the circular opening of element 60 as a flange, which the two flanges abut each other when assembled with the securing plate (70) retained in a rotationally secure manner directly between the flanges and engaging the longitudinal slit of the sleeve by way of a protuberance.

Regarding claims 29 and 39, the flanges contain depression (see the smaller inner circle on element 111) for accommodating the securing plate (70) and the depressions each have a peripheral contour adapted to a peripheral contour of the securing plate.

Regarding claims 30 and 40, the securing plate (70) has a central opening, the sleeve is plugged through the central opening, and the protuberance is arranged on an inner periphery of the opening.

Regarding claims 31 and 41, the protuberance engages in the longitudinal slit of the sleeve without projecting into the interior of the sleeve (Fig. 8).

Regarding claims 32 and 42, the sleeve mount comprises means for defining the angle-of-rotation provided on the securing plate and the mount parts (Fig. 8 [70]).

Regarding claims 34 and 43, the peripheral contour allows radial play (70).

Regarding claims 35 and 44, the means for defining the angle-of-rotation orientation are bevels (Fig. 8 [72]).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17, 28-32, 34-36, and 38-44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erin D. Chiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-3102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

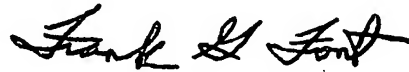
Application/Control Number:
10/502,416
Art Unit: 2883

Page 5

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Erin D Chiem
Examiner
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800